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***Implementation Plan for Stage 1 Actions,
Lower San Joaquin River and South Delta Region***

Introduction

The CALFED Bay-Delta Program is a cooperative, interagency effort of 15 state and federal agencies with management or regulatory responsibilities for the Bay-Delta system. The mission of the Program is to develop a long-term comprehensive plan that will restore ecological health and improve water management for beneficial uses of the Bay-Delta system. Accordingly, CALFED has recommended a bundle of actions for the lower San Joaquin River and south Delta region to address long-standing concerns with respect to water quality, fisheries, wildlife habitat, and water supply availability. The draft list of proposed actions has been circulated for review and comment by interested agencies and stakeholders. The proposed actions are under various levels of development, from preliminary concept to actions ready for implementation. A great deal of ongoing coordination between involved agencies and stakeholders will be required to formulate and execute a well-balanced suite of actions. To assure coordination among actions, an interagency implementation agreement may be necessary.

Stage 1 actions have been grouped into bundles for the purpose of achieving regional and programmatic balance, for development of environmental documentation, for establishing Program assurances, for facilitating financing, permitting, and implementation. Within each of the seven bundles, actions are further grouped into projects for project management purposes. Table 1 shows one such set of projects for the Lower San Joaquin River and South Delta Region Bundle. The proposed projects reflect consideration of project purposes; creating manageable project teams; developing environmental documentation and feasibility studies; providing for monitoring, assessment, research, and adaptive management; permitting; financing; and implementation. Each of the proposed groups is described in more detail in the following paragraphs.

Table 1. Proposed Bundling of Early Actions for Project Management Purposes

Note: The project-level, site-specific environmental documentation and feasibility evaluations must be broken down into manageable, coherent project packages in order to move forward efficiently. The individual projects need to be coordinated to various degrees to assure overall adherence to CALFED goals, and linked appropriately to provide agencies and stakeholders with sufficient assurance that actions are properly prioritized, yet reasonably balanced.

EIR/EIS: South Delta Improvements Program (1996 Public Draft by DWR and USBR)

SWP CCFB New Screened Intake

Permanent Barriers at HOR, ORT, and MR

Dredging

Extend and Screen Ag Intakes

Permit interim 8500 cfs and ultimately 10,300 cfs, with option for full use of Joint Point of Diversion

Barrier Operations

Monitoring

Mitigation

Settlement Agreement

EA/IS: Tracy Test Fish Facility (500 cfs) (Underway by USBR and Interagency Groups)

Construct test facility to develop best available technology approach to Delta fish screening, salvage, and return

EIR/EIS: Ecosystem and Flood Plain Restoration Associated with the South Delta Improvements Program

Aquatic and terrestrial habitat restoration actions

Flood plain restoration and management actions

Selected levee and channel modification actions

Agricultural and wetland diversion screening

EIR/EIS: Stockton Dissolved Oxygen Solution Alternatives

Municipal wastewater storage and treatment options

Non-point source reduction measures

EIR/EIS: Improved Source Water Quality for Rock Slough Intake, CCWD

Veale Tract Discharge Relocation or treatment

RD 800 discharge relocation or treatment

EIR/EIS: Agricultural Drainage Management in the San Joaquin Basin

On-farm drainage management measures

Irrigation improvement measures

Release of accumulated salts during high flows

Technical Study: Assessment of sources and Magnitudes of Loadings of Constituents of Concern for Drinking Water

Identify sources, relative magnitudes, and potential measures for reducing loadings

Feasibility Study: Recirculation as Tool for Meeting Lower San Joaquin River Flow and Water Quality Objectives

Recirculation of SWP, CVP Exports

EIR/EIS: Vernalis Adaptive Management Plan (Completed)

Secure/provide flows to meet VAMP, ESA, and WQCB Objectives

IS: Temporary Barriers Program(Completed by DWR and Corps. May need to be renewed)

Extend existing temporary barriers program as necessary while permanent facilities are evaluated and implemented

EIR: Joint Point of Diversion for CVP, SWP (Public Draft EIR on WQCP circulated by SWRCB)

(Sharing of existing export capacities)

EIR/EIS: CVP/SWP Consolidation of Diversions

Forebay Intertie and Consolidated Screening

Aqueduct Intertie for Operational Flexibility